

A REMARKABLE CASE OF SIBLING SPECIALIZATION

i knew these two brothers
who both worked for
an achieva dealer service department,

and one washed the roofs
while the other changed the oil:

the first, of course, was an over-achieva
and the latter an under.

FRANZ LOCKLIN'S MASTERPIECE

one morning a bug woke up to discover
that it had been metamorphosed into
a man named gregor samsa.

nothing further of interest happened to him.

THE LARGESSE OF THE GENTLEMAN POET

for weeks i have been struggling
to complete a poem on the subject,

"he who lives by the swordfish,
dies by the swordfish."

none of my drafts has proved satisfactory
but then i am a notorious perfectionist,

so i have decided to place this idea
in the public domain.

i only ask that the user itemize for me
all fees that may accrue to his production

in order that i may write my fertile starting point
off as a charitable contribution.

HOW VERY INTERESTING (1992)

after reading a couple of recent reviews,
it has begun to dawn on me that,

because i am known to admire
the works of charles bukowski

and known to have enjoyed
over twenty years of correspondence
with him,

one-half of the literary world
considers me an asshole

while the other half concludes
i must be one hell of a guy.

how very interesting.

you know, in all the decades
of studying and writing and teaching
and fatherhood and women and travel
and friends and enemies (few but powerful)
and economic realities,

it never occurred to me that this one
almost accidental connection
would loom so large

on my public opinion report card.

— Gerald Locklin

Long Beach CA

WALMART HAS EVERYTHING THAT A MAN COULD WANT

at the local walmart the
man in front of me is buying
some dowel rods, big ones
and the girl is having a
hard time sacking them keeps
trying to cram them into the
weak plastic and making little
faces of accommodation and the
man eventually leans over and
says thats alright honey ill
just carry them my wives
waiting in the car and im
going to beat her with them
the sack would just get in
the way he winks at her to
say, its just a joke and
walks on out, swinging one
of the dowels like a base
ball bat i can hear the
crack of her head now.